



*Dennis J. Duffin*  
*Director*

*The Commonwealth of Massachusetts*  
*Office of*  
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*One Ashburton Place, Boston 02108*  
*727-8352*

*AO-27*

December 20, 1982

Carol C. Darr, Counsel  
Democratic National Committee  
1625 Massachusetts Ave, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20036

Dear Ms. Darr:

On October 11, 1982, you requested my opinion regarding registration and reporting obligations of the Democratic National Committee to this office. Since that time, the D.N.C. made a contribution of \$1,000 to a Massachusetts gubernatorial candidate.

Several months ago, this office issued Interpretive Bulletin 82-101, a copy of which is enclosed. In it, I cited c. 55, Section 7, which states in part "A political committee or a person acting under the authority or on behalf of such a committee may receive money or its equivalent, or expend or disburse or promise to expend or disburse the same for the purpose of aiding or promoting the success or defeat of a candidate at a primary or election...and for other purposes expressly authorized by this Chapter, subject, however, to the provisions thereof." Therefore, an out-of-state political committee who wishes to participate in Massachusetts candidate campaign finance activity, must comply with the registration, reporting and limitation requirements of c. 55.

Chapter 55 is very specific as to the requirements of political committees engaged in campaign finance pursuant to that chapter. In follow up conversations between members of this office and the D.N.C. you have assured us that the contribution described above originated in what was referred to as the "D.N.C. Non-Federal General Account." This was described as an account consisting entirely of monies received from Union Treasuries, contributed by them as an incidental activity of their Union. It is our understanding that no contributions have been received by the Committee Account from any corporation, political committee, or any group, association or union which solicits and receives contributions for political purposes.

In order for a Massachusetts candidate to accept contributions from the Democratic National Committee Non-Federal General Account, this account must register with this office in accordance with the requirements of Massachusetts law. Based on the representations made by the staff of the D.N.C. to this office, I would advise you to organize and report the activities of this Committee Account, as a political committee, to this office. You should report

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all activity of that Committee Account since January 1, 1980. In addition, I would request that you file an affidavit with the report which states, in general terms the sources of the monies in this Committee Account since it inception. Once you are organized here you must, of course, comply with all the provisions contained in c. 55 relative to the permissible activity of a political committee.

This opinion has been based on representations made by you and other staff of the Democratic National Committee. At the present time I am continuing to review the matter of whether the D.N.C. television advertisements placed on Rhode Island stations and broadcast into Massachusetts triggers any reporting obligations in addition to that required by the contribution described above.

Very truly yours,



Dennis J. Duffin,  
Director

DJD/rep

enclosure